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# THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS & FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

ALL ABOUT  
Celebrating  
Picasso's  
famous art  
p12



NEWS  
World's  
happiest  
countries  
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ANIMALS  
Flamingos  
form strong  
friendships  
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Making sense of the world

THE BEST  
MAGAZINE FOR  
CURIOS  
KIDS

# THE WEEK Junior

# BOOKS UNDER THREAT

US librarians report a record  
number of demands to censor  
reading material p2





# This week's big news



## DID YOU KNOW?

About 44% of book challenges happen in school libraries, 37% in public libraries, and 18% in schools.

Only 1% of book challenges are initiated by students, according to the American Library Association.

## One woman's protest



Grace Linn, a 100-year-old woman in Florida, expressed her opposition to banning books in a creative way. She made a quilt featuring books that had been either banned or targeted. Then she brought it to the Martin County School Board meeting where the topic was being discussed. "Freedom is so important," she said.

# Book ban attempts hit new high

Efforts to challenge or ban books from schools and public libraries are at an all-time high, according to a report by the American Library Association (ALA) released on March 23. When people challenge a book, they try to have it removed from libraries or schools based on its content.

## What happened?

The ALA said there were more than 1,200 challenges to books in 2022, the most since the group began gathering data 20 years ago and almost double the previous high, set in 2021. Many complaints called for the censorship (controlling of materials available to read) of hundreds of books. More than 2,500 different books were challenged, compared to 1,858 in 2021 and 566 in 2019. The count is based on reports from libraries and the media. The ALA said the actual number of challenges may be much higher. Deborah Caldwell-Stone, an ALA official, also said that people opposed to certain books have harassed librarians and threatened violence or legal action against them.

## Why is this happening?

School officials, parents, and other community members challenge books because they

include language, political views, or topics they disagree with or find offensive. According to the ALA, most of the challenged books include racial or LGBTQ themes. Several states—such as Arizona, Missouri, and Texas—have also proposed or passed laws that ban certain books in libraries. Titles that have been recently challenged include *New Kid* by Jerry Kraft, *The Prince and the Dressmaker* by Jen Wang, and *Stamped* by Ibram X. Kendi and Jason Reynolds.

## What was the reaction?

Paul Marcucci, a teacher in Florida, said he doesn't approve of books with "shock value," such as the use of curse words, and that parents should have the right to determine what their children read. Many librarians said, however, that they will defend children's right to access all books suitable for their age group. "If you don't like a book, don't check it out," said Douglas Lord, director of the CH Booth Library in Connecticut. "But you have no right to tell other people what they can and can't do." Best-selling author James Patterson, whose books were removed from a school library in Florida, said, "One of the wonderful things about books

is it allows us to find out about different ways of thinking, of living, different problems people have, different ways of finding joy."

## What is happening worldwide?

Panelists at Italy's Bologna Book Fair, which took place in March, said book bans have become a global issue affecting Portugal, Germany, the Netherlands, and other countries. Giorgia Grilli, a professor of children's literature at the University of Bologna, said she feared the bans would lead authors to avoid controversial topics. "What worries me is a world where artists adapt to the dominant view," Grilli said.

## What will happen next?

Efforts to restrict books are expected to continue. Members of the House of Representatives (one half of Congress, which makes US laws) recently introduced the "Parents Bill of Rights." If it passes, it would give parents more control over public education, including the books available at schools. The ALA will continue its work through a national initiative called Unite Against Book Bans, which calls on readers to fight book challenges. The group will also release its annual list of the top 10 most challenged books during National Library Week, set for April 23–29 this year. A new nonprofit organization, Foundation 451, will buy challenged books and give them to students.



Deborah Caldwell-Stone



## Population on the rise in Canada

For the first time in history, Canada's population grew by more than one million people in a 12-month period. According to a government report, the number of people rose from 38.51 million to 39.56 million in 2022, marking Canada's highest annual population growth rate since 1957. If growth continues at this rate, the nation's population is expected to double by 2048.

In 2022, Canada welcomed 437,180 immigrants (people who come to a country to live there), accounting for 96% of the population increase. The government has pledged to welcome 1.5 million immigrants by 2025, including people from Ukraine, Afghanistan, Turkey, and Syria. Conflict and natural disasters in those places have led to record numbers of people fleeing for safety in other countries.

Canadian officials hope the population growth will help reverse a shortage of workers. Since 1971, Canada's working-age population has decreased while the number of people ages 65 and older has increased, due in part to longer life expectancy.



## IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

### A SPECIES HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT

An orchid growing in parks, gardens, and homes in Japan has been identified as a new species. Scientists mistook *Spiranthes hachijoensis* for a common flower until they studied it closely. "We were thrilled" with the finding, said one.



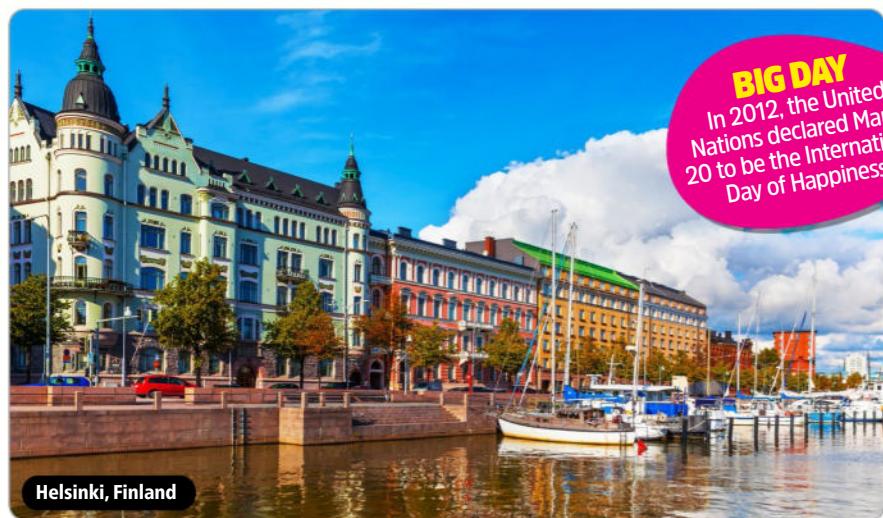
The new species

### SPEEDY SOLVING

Yiheng Wang, a 9-year-old speedcuber from China, set a Guinness World Record for solving a 3 x 3 Rubik's cube. Wang had five tries, which were averaged to get his final time of 4.69 seconds.



Yiheng Wang



Helsinki, Finland

**BIG DAY**  
In 2012, the United Nations declared March 20 to be the International Day of Happiness.

## World's happiest countries ranked

For the sixth straight year, Finland has been named the world's happiest country in the World Happiness Report. The report, compiled by an international team of researchers, has been published annually since 2012.

The researchers used data collected from 100,000 people in 137 countries, who were asked to rank their satisfaction with their lives on a scale of 1 to 10. In the happiest countries, people were found to have high levels of social support, such as accessible healthcare, education, and housing. Citizens said they have healthy life expectancies and the freedom to make life choices. Corruption (use of a position of power for personal or political gain) is rare, and people help others in need.

For people in Finland, happiness "stems from a close relationship with nature and our

down-to-earth lifestyle," said a Finnish official, adding that it's "a skill that can be learned and shared." The second and third happiest nations were Denmark and Iceland. The US ranked 15th. Afghanistan and Lebanon, which have been affected by conflict, were the unhappiest.

In general, most of the populations surveyed in the report were "remarkably resilient," and people's level of life satisfaction remained as high as it was before the Covid-19 pandemic. Another positive finding was that benevolence (an interest in doing good for others) was about 25% higher than it was before Covid-19.

"The overall goal is a happier society," said Richard Layard, a co-author of the report. "But we only get there if people make each other happy (and not just themselves)."

### A SWIFTIE CEREMONY

René Hurtado and Max Bochman got married in the front row at a Taylor Swift concert, while the singer performed feet away. Hurtado, age 30, is a huge fan, and fellow Swifties in the audience cheered them on. "We really felt the love in the moment," she said.



The happy couple



# National news



**LOTS OF SUNSHINE**  
Utah has about 238 sunny days per year, while the average US state gets about 205 sunny days.

Spencer Cox, the governor of Utah, signs the bills into law.

## Utah fact file



- **CAPITAL:** Salt Lake City
- **POPULATION:** 3.38 million, 30th largest US state
- **HISTORY:** Became 45th state on January 4, 1896
- **LANDSCAPE:** Mountains, high plateaus, and deserts
- **ECONOMY:** Tourism from its five national parks, agriculture, manufacturing, mining

## Utah to restrict kids' social media use

Utah Governor Spencer Cox has signed two new laws that will restrict children and teens from having access to social media apps, such as TikTok. The laws are the first in the nation created to keep young people from online platforms that are considered addictive (creating a compulsive need).

### What will the laws do in Utah?

Social media companies would have to verify users' ages before they could use their apps. Anyone under age 18 (minors) would need a parent's consent to use the apps and would be barred from using them between the hours of 10:30 pm and 6:30 am. The companies would be prohibited from designing features that might cause a minor to become addicted to their app. Minors who

feel social media has harmed them could have a lawsuit (legal dispute) filed on their behalf.

### Why are the laws significant?

The laws are part of a growing movement to restrict young people's access to social media. Lawmakers and parents said they want to prevent kids from becoming addicted to the apps. They believe that limiting social media use is a positive change for teens' mental health. They also don't want advertisers to target kids through social media. States such as Arkansas, Louisiana, New Jersey, Ohio, and Texas are considering similar laws.

### How did people react?

The new laws "hold social media companies accountable," said Jim Steyer of Common Sense

Media, an organization that reviews media and technology for children. But Steyer was concerned that requiring parental consent and age verification could deprive kids of privacy protection. Civil liberty groups also said it would be an invasion of privacy for social media companies to verify users' ages. Restricting social media could be harmful to some kids, such as those in the LGBTQ community, who may get support from the apps, said Sarah Coyne, a child development expert in Utah.

### What will happen next?

The laws are scheduled to go into effect in March 2024. Legal experts said they expect social media companies to file lawsuits before then to try to stop the laws from being enacted.

### WORD OF THE WEEK

**HAPPY**

The word "happy" first appeared in the 14th century. It is based on an Old English word "hap," meaning "luck" or "chance," so the first meaning of "happy" was more "lucky" than "glad." It wasn't until about 200 years later that "happy" became associated with feelings of joy. "Hap" survives in the word "perhaps," which began as "per hap" or "by chance."

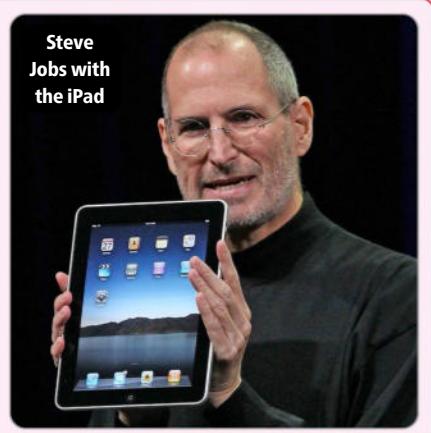


## THE WEEK IN HISTORY

**April 3, 2010**

The first iPad is released

On April 3, 2010, the technology company Apple released the iPad, which Apple co-founder Steve Jobs called "something completely new." It was the first tablet-style computer to combine laptop and smartphone features together. Lines stretched outside Apple stores for blocks as people waited to buy the new product. More than 300,000 iPads were sold on the first day.



Steve Jobs with the iPad



## Tornadoes damage the South

On March 24, about 10 tornadoes touched down with heavy winds and rain that led to devastating damage in the South. Thousands of people lost power, homes and businesses were destroyed, and at least 25 people in Mississippi and one person in Alabama died. President Joe Biden approved a disaster declaration, bringing aid to the affected areas. Recovery efforts were underway when *The Week Junior* went to press on March 28.



## School strike in Los Angeles

Public schools in Los Angeles, California, reopened on March 24 after a three-day strike (when employees stop working as a form of protest). The strike brought attention to the issue of increasing the pay of some of the lowest-paid workers in the nation's second-largest school district, such as teacher's aides, custodians, and bus drivers. More than 400,000 students were affected by the strike.



## Tortoise triplets born in Houston

Three radiated tortoise hatchlings, named Dill, Gherkin, and Jalapeño, were born at the Houston Zoo in Texas. They are the offspring of Mr. Pickles, who became a father for the first time at the age of 90, and Mrs. Pickles, age 53. The zoo said the births are a "big dill," because the radiated tortoise, native to Madagascar, is a critically endangered species that produces few offspring.



## Arts and humanities medals awarded

For their contributions to the arts and the humanities, 23 musicians, writers, actors, and others were recognized on March 21. At the White House, President Joe Biden presented two categories of awards from 2021—the National Medal of Arts and the National Humanities Medal. The ceremony had been delayed due to the pandemic, making this the first time Biden gave out the awards.

The National Medal of Arts, established in 1984 by Congress (branch of government that makes laws), is the highest award for advancing arts in the US. The National Humanities Medal was created in 1997 by the National Endowment for the Humanities to honor people whose work deepens citizens' connection to history, literature, philosophy, and other subjects.

Two of the arts medal recipients were singer-songwriter Bruce Springsteen and actress and comedian Mindy Kaling. Nicknamed "the Boss,"



The National Humanities Medal

Springsteen has sold about 150 million albums over the past 50 years. Kaling, a daughter of Indian immigrants, was the first woman of color to create, write, and star in a prime-time TV comedy. Another recipient was Vera Wang, a clothing designer who reshaped the fashion world.

Author Amy Tan and historian Earl Lewis were two recipients of the National Humanities Medal.

Tan is a Chinese American author who has written five best-selling novels and whose work has been translated into 35 languages. Lewis is a professor at the University of Michigan whom Biden cited as making "vital contributions to the field of Black history."

Novelist Colson Whitehead also received a humanities medal. Two of his novels have won the Pulitzer Prize for literature.

At the ceremony, Biden said the honorees were as "diverse as the nation that celebrates with them." Their "boldness to be truth tellers, bridge builders, and change seekers" are the threads that weave them together, he said.

## THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

**"Crocodile joins picnic, steals cooler box" UPI**





# Around the world



Books will be free for students.

## Ireland Government pays for schoolbooks

Parents of elementary school children in Ireland will no longer have to pay for schoolbooks. Starting in September, the government will provide about \$104 per student, which will enable 3,230 schools to provide textbooks and workbooks for 558,000 children. It is the first time books have been funded for every student and will save families from having to buy or rent them.



Demonstrating in Jerusalem

## Israel Judicial changes paused after outcry

On March 27, during a 12th week of mass protests in Israel, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he would put his controversial judicial reforms on hold. The day before, tens of thousands of Israelis took to the streets after Netanyahu fired defense minister Yoav Gallant, who voiced objections to the plan. The changes would weaken the nation's top court while making parliament (similar to Congress) more powerful.



## Rio de Janeiro, Brazil Residents protest ziplines on mountain

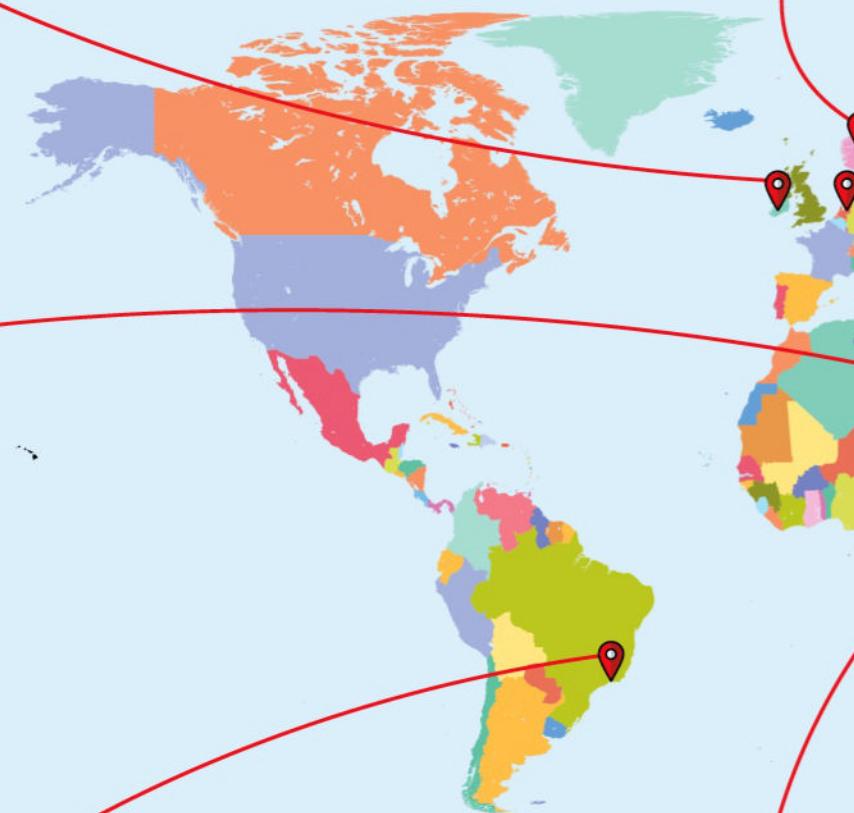
People in Rio de Janeiro are protesting the construction of ziplines on Sugarloaf Mountain, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The four ziplines will each run nearly 2,500 feet from Sugarloaf to Urca Hill. While cable cars already operate in the area, protesters expressed concern about noise from zipline riders and the possibility of UNESCO revoking the mountain's heritage status.

## Norway New map redraws coastline

A new survey has added more than 2,000 miles to Norway's coastline, making it the world's second longest after Canada's. Experts who measured the coast, which includes at least 1,700 long, narrow inlets called fjords, now say it's nearly 65,000 miles long. Improvements in the science of drawing maps made the new measurement possible.



Norway's Lofoten Islands



## Uganda Harsh laws passed

Uganda's government has approved some of the harshest anti-gay laws in the world. The new laws target people who identify as LGBTQ, a term that includes men who love men, women who love women, and people who are a different gender than the one they were assigned at birth. Under the laws, identifying as LGBTQ could result in 20 years in prison. Human rights advocate Sarah Kasande said the new laws promote hatred.

A Ugandan man protests the laws.



# Around the world



Rail workers  
in Molkwerum

## The Netherlands Badgers disrupt trains

Badgers have been disrupting train service in the Netherlands by digging under the tracks and making it dangerous for trains to run. Badgers are protected in the Netherlands, so rail companies need permission to move them. Near the village of Molkwerum, rail workers plan to build small, sandy hills so badgers can dig homes there instead.



A clock tower in  
the capital, Beirut



COURTESY SEOUL METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT; GETTY IMAGES (3); REUTERS SHUTTERSTOCK (6)

## Marion Island, South Africa

### Mice to be removed

House mice are to be removed from Marion Island, which lies nearly 1,400 miles southeast of South Africa, to protect endangered seabirds. The mice arrived on the island on ships in the 1800s. Their population grew as they ate plants, insects, and the chicks of seabirds, including the wandering albatross, that breed there. Officials hope dropping poisoned bait from helicopters will restore the island's natural habitat.



A house mouse



An artist's  
impression  
of the ride

## South Korea

### BIGGEST SPOKELESS FERRIS WHEEL TO BE BUILT

A gigantic spokeless Ferris wheel is being built in Haneul Park, in the Korean capital of Seoul. The Seoul Ring will be the largest spokeless Ferris wheel in the world, standing 591 feet tall and carrying 36 carriages that hold 25 people each. Powered by eco-friendly energy sources, the ring is expected to open in December 2027 and give riders stunning views of the city and the Han River.



The artwork as  
seen from above

## Oman

### Desert art draws attention

A French artist named Saype has created a painting that's more than 320 feet long of a boy turning on a light bulb in a desert solar farm (where panels turn the Sun's heat into electricity). He said the painting represents the "magic" of solar energy. The artwork was drawn on sand using biodegradable (meaning it breaks down easily) paint made from charcoal and chalk.



# The big debate

## Is it important to have good manners?

Some people stick by them, but others say they're old-fashioned and unnecessary.

### What you need to know

- Manners are rules for how people should behave around one another. One expert called them "traffic lights for life" that prevent us from crashing into one another.
- Some manners are about people's feelings. Others are rules about things like holding a knife and fork the right way—also called etiquette.
- Good manners in one place can be bad manners in another. For example, in parts of Asia, slurping and burping at the table are compliments to the chef.



#### DID YOU KNOW?

In the 1600s, yawning was a sign that people were bored, so they covered their mouths to hide it.

For hundreds of years, people have been taught to mind their manners, whether that means taking their elbows off the table or not talking with a mouthful of food. But manners are always changing. About 100 years ago, children weren't supposed to speak unless an adult spoke to them first. Now young people can make their voices heard in school, at home, and in public at events like climate protests. Manners also vary. In the US, making eye contact is polite, but in parts of Africa and South America, it can be rude. Some people say manners show respect for others, but others think they're just random rules. What do you think—is it important to have good manners?

### Yes—manners are a form of kindness

Good manners cost nothing but really pay off. Being polite shows you care about other people's feelings and want to put them at ease. Studies show that when someone is kind to us, it releases a feel-good chemical in our brains called oxytocin, which causes us to be kind back. In other words, well-mannered people make the world a happier place—and benefit everyone. Manners also help keep us healthy, which is why people should cover their mouths when they cough and keep dirty feet off seats. Although manners evolve, they all share a common goal, which is to make people feel comfortable and respected.

### No—people should be themselves

Manners put pressure on people to behave in a way that might not reflect how they really feel. If someone says "thank you" or "sorry" when they don't mean it, they're not being polite—they're just pretending to be nice. It's better to be honest. Plus, "good manners" don't always make sense in modern times. For example, keeping your elbows off the table started in the Middle Ages, when people crowded around tables that flipped over easily. That's not a big concern anymore. Manners once showed how sophisticated and rich people were, but it doesn't matter what fork you use as long as you're kind and considerate to others.

#### YES Three reasons why it is important to have good manners

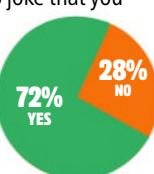
- 1 Good manners show others we care and motivate them to be polite, which makes the world a kinder place.
- 2 Some manners prevent the spread of germs, which helps keep everyone safe.
- 3 Even though they change over time, manners are meant to make people feel happy and respected. That's a good thing.

#### NO Three reasons why it is not important to have good manners

- 1 Manners force people to hide how they really feel. It's better to be honest.
- 2 Lots of rules, like not putting your elbows on the table, are way out of date. Let's leave them in the past where they belong.
- 3 As long as people are kind to one another, they shouldn't have to follow random rules. Let them be themselves.

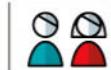
#### LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if comedy was better than drama. It's no joke that you love a good laugh: 72% of you said yes, and 28% said no.



### What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit [kids.theweekjunior.com/polls](https://kids.theweekjunior.com/polls) so you can vote in our debate. Vote YES if you think it's important to have good manners or NO if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.



# Sharing his lens

Reid Davenport's award-winning documentaries show life with a disability.

Reid Davenport, age 32, makes documentary films that push the boundaries of how people with disabilities are seen on screen. With his recently released first feature film, *I Didn't See You There*, he has gained acclaim and awards for his work.

Davenport has cerebral palsy (a condition that affects movement and muscles) and uses a wheelchair. He told *The Week Junior* that he discovered his passion and purpose in college. When he wanted to study abroad for a semester, he was told not to come because the program would not accommodate his wheelchair. Instead, that semester, Davenport took a class on documentary filmmaking and made a film about lack of accessibility. Since then Davenport has made many short films



Davenport's documentary

about disability activism and the lives of people living with disabilities.

*I Didn't See You There* premiered in 2022 at the prestigious Sundance Film Festival, where he won the directing award in the US Documentary category. The film is a first-person narrative shot by Davenport to show how he navigates life in a wheelchair and his point of view.

In March, he received the Truer Than Fiction prize at the Independent Spirit Awards, a top honor for emerging filmmakers. In his acceptance speech, he called on industry leaders to fund more stories by disabled filmmakers.

"There needs to be stories about disability that don't fall into the clichés we've seen," he told *The Week Junior*. "There are artists out there with disabilities, and their work should be seen by everyone."



Reid Davenport

## A DJ turned teacher

After traveling the world as a successful DJ and trumpet player, Florence Lugemwa, age 26, has returned to her home country of Uganda to inspire children to follow their music dreams. Lugemwa grew up with parents who loved music and joined her school's marching band at age 10. Now she runs the Homeland brass band at a school in Kampala. Many of her students live in very poor communities, and one of her goals is to help them succeed so they can improve their lives. She tells them, "Being brilliant is how you survive."



Florence Lugemwa



Ian Falconer

## Mourning an author

Beloved author and illustrator Ian Falconer died on March 7 at age 63. Falconer had a successful art career, designing theater sets and costumes as well as creating cartoons for covers of *The New Yorker*. He was best known for his award-winning *Olivia* children's books, which were inspired by his niece and follow the misadventures of a young, spirited pig. Falconer once told *The New York Times* what makes a good children's book is not underestimating young readers. "Children will figure things out," he said. "It's what they do best—sorting out the world."

## OVERHEARD

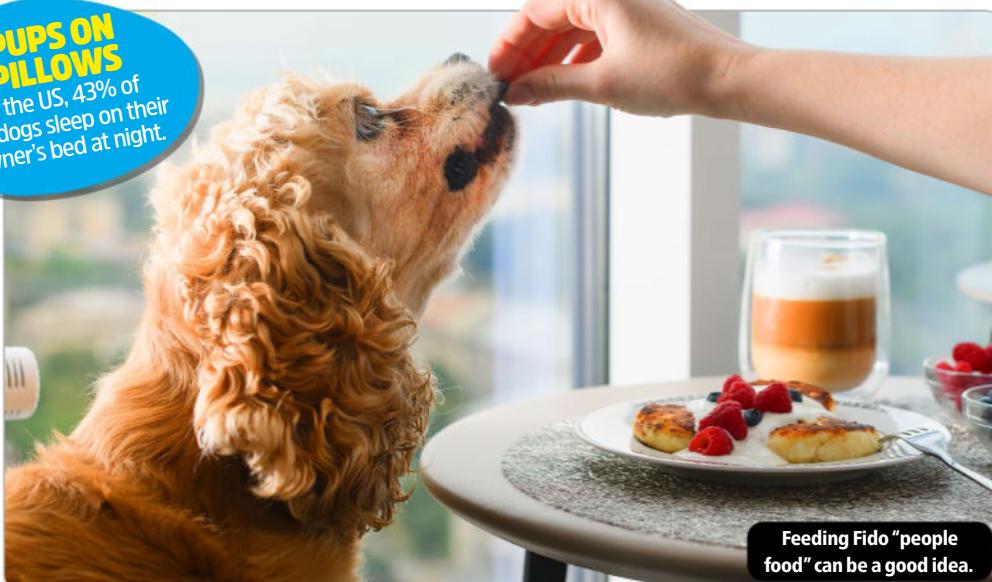




# Animals and the environment

## PUPS ON PILLOWS

In the US, 43% of pet dogs sleep on their owner's bed at night.



Feeding Fido "people food" can be a good idea.

## A dog's love

Any dog owner knows their pet can form strong emotional bonds with people. Recent research backs it up. In one study, dogs chose their owner over food eight out of 10 times. Another found that dogs shed tears when reuniting with their owner after a long time apart. "Our dogs love us," said researcher Clive Wynne.



Puppy love

## Dogs fed from tables may be healthier

Do you get in trouble for feeding your dog scraps from dinner under the table? A new study suggests that by sharing your family's food, you might actually be helping to keep your pet healthy.

Many dogs are fed dry "kibble," which is highly processed (changed from its natural state). Science has shown that a diet based on processed food is not healthy for humans. Researchers from the University of Helsinki, in Finland, say this diet is not good for our canine companions either.

The scientists discovered that the foods a dog might come across in an owner's home—such as raw berries, eggs, fish, meat, and

vegetables—can help keep its digestive system healthy and may be better than a diet of just dog food. This is because having a wider variety of food leads to more variety in the microbes living in the gut (digestive system).

Microbes are tiny living organisms, too small to be seen without a microscope. There are millions of them in human and animal bodies. Some are bad for us, but many are good for us, and they play important roles in helping us digest food.

The study involved 4,500 puppies under 6 months of age and 4,000 dogs between 6 and 18 months old. The owners were asked what foods they had fed their pets

and how often. When the dogs reached adulthood, owners reported that about 20% of the dogs showed symptoms of a condition called chronic enteropathy (CE), which is characterized by diarrhea, vomiting, and weight loss. However, dogs that had been fed a mixed diet while they were young were 22% less likely to experience CE symptoms later in life. The study also looked at individual foods and found that eating raw bones or cartilage at least twice a week reduced the dog's chances of getting CE symptoms even further.

Dr. Anna Hielm-Björkman told *The Times of London*, "Commercial dog foods are presented as providing a complete and balanced diet.... But what we show is that variety is important. Nobody would give 12 years of the same food to a child—why should a dog be different?"



Like humans, dogs need variety.



## PLACE OF THE WEEK

Petrified Forest National Park, Arizona

This park's main attraction is petrified wood—logs that have absorbed minerals over thousands of years and now look like gigantic crystals. But there is much more to see: The hills are striped with colorful rock layers, and the area's long history is shown in more than 800 archaeological sites, fossils, and rock carvings. The park includes part of the Painted Desert, but it is actually a grassland full of plants—including prickly pear and cholla cactus, wildflowers, and juniper trees—and animals such as the kitfox, greater roadrunner, tarantula, and spadefoot toad.



A roadrunner



## DID YOU KNOW?

A flock of flamingos can include tens of thousands of birds.



Flamingos form groups with like-minded birds.

## Flamingo friends have traits in common

Flamingos in flocks tend to spend time with other flamingos who have similar personalities, according to a new study from the University of Exeter, in England, and the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust. The study looked at two separate flocks of Caribbean and Chilean flamingos.

Previous research has shown that flamingos form friendships—in pairs or in groups of three or four friends—that can last for years. In the new study, researchers evaluated flamingos based on personality traits, such as how aggressive (forceful) or

submissive (obedient) they were and how willing they were to explore.

They found that birds with similar personality traits spent more time with one another. For example, submissive birds mainly spent time with other submissive birds, while aggressive birds formed groups that were more likely to get in fights. "Birds of a feather flock together," said Dr. Paul Rose, an author of the study. "It is clear from this research that a flamingo's social life is much more complicated than we first realized."

## Animal of the Week

### Eurasian eagle owl

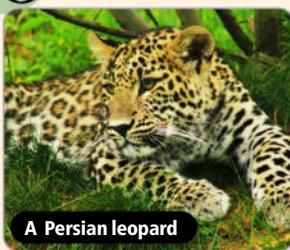


A Eurasian eagle owl named Flaco recently escaped from New York's Central Park Zoo. Experts and fans watched as Flaco learned to survive in the wild after 13 years in human care. His success has brought attention to the species.

- **LIFE SPAN:** 10 to 20 years in the wild
- **HABITAT:** Wooded areas in Europe and Asia
- **SIZE:** Up to 9 pounds, with a 6-foot wingspan
- **DIET:** Rodents, reptiles, insects, fish, and birds
- **FUN FACT:** They have striking orange eyes, and are one of the world's largest owl species.



## Good week / Bad week



A Persian leopard



### European spruce trees

The European bark beetle has been destroying spruce trees in Europe for many years. Researchers now know that the insects are attracted by a fungus that weakens the trees, making it easier for the beetles to invade.

### Iran's endangered species

Iran has announced a plan to increase protected areas, such as national parks, from 11% to 20% of its land. This is expected to help several endangered species, including Persian leopards, Gorgan Mountain salamanders, and saker falcons.



## "How do pandas digest the poison in bamboo?"

Grace, 10, Arizona

### Sara Morgan

Senior keeper,  
Oregon Zoo



A giant panda

Giant pandas eat raw bamboo, which contains a poison called cyanide. Pandas can process the cyanide and turn it into a less harmful substance, thiocyanate. Then they pee it out and start all over again! Giant pandas eat about 40 pounds of bamboo each day, which is a lot of processing.

Do you have a question for a zookeeper? Send it to [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com). Find out more about the Oregon Zoo at [oregonzoo.org](http://oregonzoo.org).



# A famous artist with

**Picasso dared to experiment with art forms—and even invented his own.**

April 8 is the 50th anniversary of the death of the famous artist Pablo Picasso. In his honor, approximately 50 museums worldwide are holding events and exhibitions of his work.



Picasso, age 10

GETTY IMAGES (2); ALAMY (6); NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

## Growing up

Pablo Picasso was born on October 25, 1881, in Málaga, Spain. His father was a professor of drawing, and when Picasso was about 10, he began attending his dad's lessons. The boy quickly showed a talent for art. At age 14, he painted a portrait of his Aunt Pepa that has been praised by art critics for dramatically capturing her intense facial expression. Picasso went on to study art in Madrid but was more inspired by visits to the Prado, Spain's national art museum, than his classes. Two years later, he moved to Barcelona and joined a group of artists who met at a café named *Els Quatre Gats* (The Four Cats). Picasso's new friends heard about exciting developments in art and culture in Paris, France. Soon, Picasso began spending much of his time in Paris.

## From blue to rose

The death of a close friend in 1901 marked the start of Picasso's "Blue Period." For about three years, blue was the most common color in his paintings, and his work focused on themes related to sadness, poverty, and loneliness. In 1903, he painted one of his most famous works: *The Old Guitarist*.



***The Old Guitarist***

By 1904, Picasso was beginning to feel better. That spring, he moved permanently to Paris. He began painting circus performers and using brighter, redder tones in what became known as the "Rose Period."



### EARLY START

Picasso hosted his first exhibit in Barcelona, Spain, when he was 19 years old.

### VALUABLE WORK

Since the year 2000, art by Picasso has sold for more than \$100 million.

## Well-known works of art

Pablo Picasso devoted nearly 80 years of his life to making art. In that time, he created more than 20,000 works. Here are a few notable examples.



### Family of Saltimbanques

Created in 1905, during the Rose Period, this painting shows a group of traveling circus performers. A scientific study found that Picasso first painted the image in blue tones, then covered it in red, pink, and orange.





# many styles



Pablo Picasso at his home in France in 1960



## Three Musicians

The artist created this work in 1921. The flat, bright-colored shapes of the clarinet player (left), guitarist (middle), and singer (right) look like they were cut from pieces of paper, in a style known as Synthetic Cubism.



## Portrait of Dora Maar

Picasso created several paintings of the artist Dora Maar, one of his girlfriends. In 1937, he combined a side view of Maar with a direct view from the front to create his striking portrait of Maar sitting in an armchair.



The Accordionist

## Breaking the rules

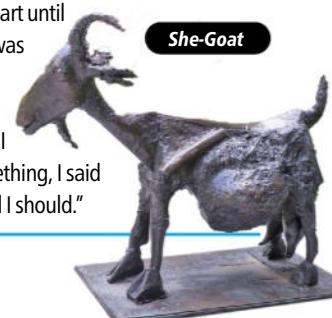
Between about 1907 and 1914, Picasso and his friend Georges Braque began experimenting with a new style of art. Unlike most Western artists at the time, they were not trying to depict nature or make a subject look realistic. Instead, they divided objects into smaller shapes, then put them back together in surprising ways. They often showed the same object from several points of view, all in one work of art. This new style stressing abstract structures became known as Cubism. One of Picasso's Cubist works, *The Accordionist*, created in 1911, depicts an accordion player sitting in an armchair—but it's hard to tell! The style was shocking at first, but it later inspired several other artists to create Cubist works of their own.



Guernica

## A lifelong pursuit

After World War I (1914–1918), Picasso briefly returned to traditional styles. He later worked in a style known as Surrealism and began sculpting and writing poetry. He continued to make Cubist works like *Guernica*, inspired by his outrage against the Spanish Civil War (1936–1939). When Picasso, who made art until he died at age 91, was asked why he used so many styles, he replied, "Whenever I wanted to say something, I said it the way I believed I should."



She-Goat



## GREAT HEIGHTS

The Great Pyramid stood more than 480 feet tall when it was first built and is now 449.5 feet tall.



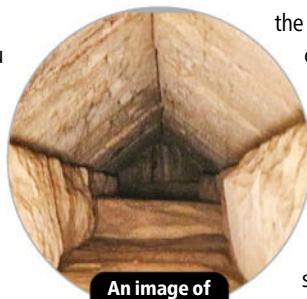
The Pyramid of Khufu, also called the Great Pyramid

## Seeing inside an ancient pyramid

Scientists are a step closer to understanding one of history's greatest mysteries: how the ancient pyramids of Egypt were constructed thousands of years ago. Researchers recently revealed new details about an empty corridor in the Pyramid of Khufu, the largest of the pyramids of Giza. Also known as the Great Pyramid, it was the first to be constructed and was built in honor of the pharaoh (ruler) Khufu about 4,500 years ago.

The researchers are part of the ScanPyramids project, an international effort to study the pyramids without altering or damaging them. They used modern scanning technology to study the corridor, which is sealed off from the outside.

The team first found evidence of the empty corridor near the pyramid's main entrance in 2016, using technology called cosmic ray muon radiography. Muons are particles produced by cosmic rays (atoms from outside our solar system that land on Earth), and they change based on the density of objects around them. Measuring these changes helps experts detect empty spaces within structures like pyramids.



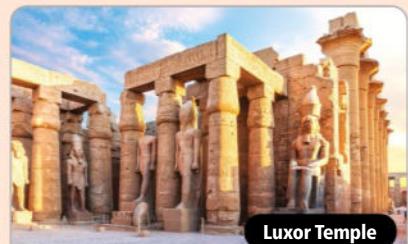
An image of the corridor

The researchers used muon radiography to confirm the existence of the corridor and determine that it is 30 feet long and nearly seven feet wide. They also captured video footage of its interior. They inserted an endoscope (a flexible tube with a light and camera attached) that was less than 1/4-inch wide through a tiny gap in the pyramid's outer wall and into the corridor. The footage shows the passageway's stone walls and sloped ceiling.

The purpose of this empty corridor is not yet clear. Zahi Hawass, an Egyptian archaeologist (scientist who studies objects left by people long ago), believes Khufu's burial chamber could be under the corridor. Ancient treasures that were buried along with the pharaoh may also be there.

Mostafa Waziri, the head of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities, said the corridor might be providing structural support to the pyramid. The team will continue working to find answers. "Are there more corridors? Will there be chambers? It must have a function, but we don't know it yet and we can't predict," Waziri told CBS News.

## A tomb for a royal



Luxor Temple

A previously undiscovered royal tomb that is thought to be about 3,000 years old was found by archaeologists in the Egyptian city of Luxor earlier this year. Experts think the tomb, which is near the Nile River, could belong to a royal wife or princess. It may have been built during the 18th Dynasty of Egypt (1550–1292 BCE). Unfortunately, ancient flooding from the river left the tomb in poor condition. To reveal its secrets, the archaeologists will have to keep excavating (digging) in the area.

Luxor and the surrounding area are home to many historic finds, including Luxor Temple and the Valley of the Kings, where King Tutankhamun's tomb was discovered. Sixty mummies were uncovered in Luxor in January.



## Scientists call for a time zone on the Moon

The European Space Agency (ESA) wants the Moon to have its own time zone so space agencies from around the world can cooperate on lunar missions. Several nations, including Japan, India, and Russia, are planning Moon voyages in the near future. NASA (the US space agency) is planning a Moon landing in 2025.

The ESA said a lunar time zone would make it simpler for agencies and astronauts to communicate as they travel to, from, and across the Moon. Currently, the time on the Moon is based on the country planning or executing the mission. If astronauts are using different time zones, there could be communication issues that could affect their safety.

**WHAT TIME IS IT?**  
The International Space Station follows Coordinated Universal Time, which is the same time zone as the UK.

Setting up a lunar time zone is a challenging task, however. Gravity affects how quickly or slowly time passes. Since gravity is weaker on the Moon than on Earth, clocks run slightly faster on the Moon. After 24 hours, a lunar clock would be 56 microseconds ahead of a clock on Earth.

And a full day on Earth is measured by the time between two sunsets—about 24 hours. On the Moon, the time between two sunsets is nearly 709 hours, about 29.5 Earth days. Scientists are trying to determine whether the lunar time zone should be based on the Moon or Earth and who should be in charge of maintaining it.

If a lunar time zone is set, scientists could create time zones for other destinations, like Mars.



A rendering of the European Space Agency's lunar lander



Electric vehicles need to be charged.

### Building roads that can charge cars

The world's first public trial of a road that wirelessly charges electric vehicles (EVs) is set to take place in Germany. Currently, most people plug in their EVs at charging stations or charge them wirelessly on special parking pads.

Electric cars are better for the environment because they don't burn gasoline. But as more people own them, more charging locations will be needed for people to use when they're away from home.

The road in Balingen, Germany, will test dynamic charging, which charges a car's battery while it is driving. It uses "magnetic resonance induction," where copper coils built into the road send energy to a receiver in the EV as it passes over.

Even if the trials are successful, it would be challenging to introduce dynamic charging. The system is expensive to install, which means it might be most effective in areas with many cars, such as cities.



### A basketball that needs no inflating



The new ball

Wilson, the company that makes official NBA basketballs, has designed an airless ball that feels and functions like a regulation ball. It was 3D-printed with a surface of holes in a hexagon shape. Air flows through them into the hollow interior, which lets the

ball keep its shape without needing to be inflated.

The airless ball has a seamed pattern, weight, and bounce like a regular leather basketball. It's a prototype (early model) for now, Wilson said on its website, adding, "We're thrilled by the possibilities."

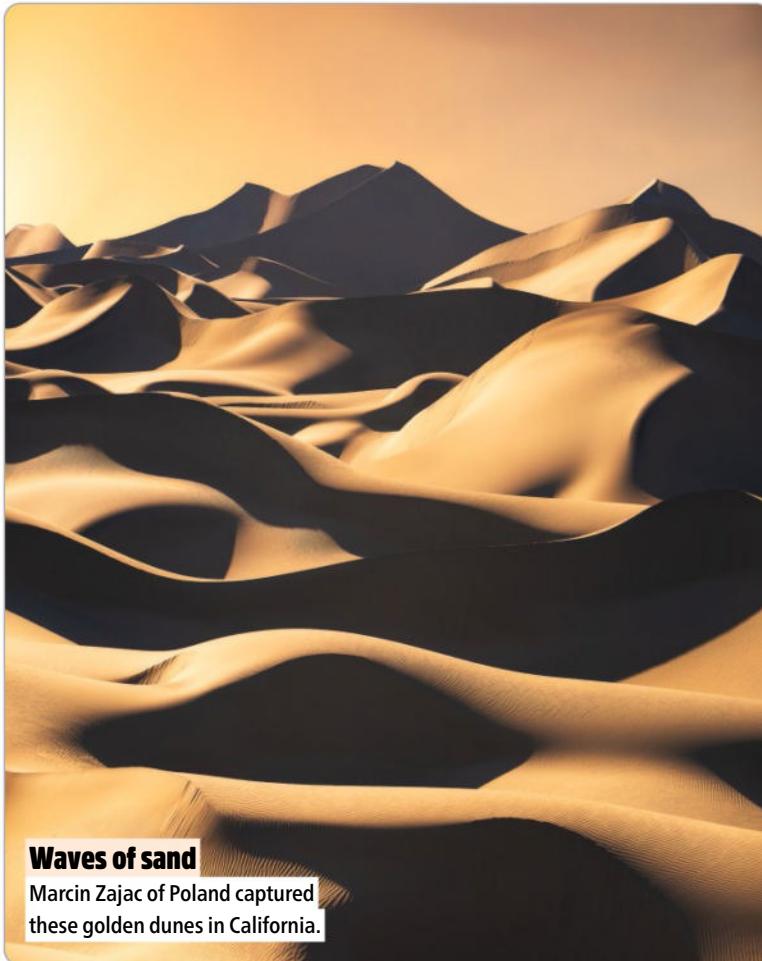


# Photos of the week



## Vivid view

Michael Prince of the US took this photo from above a cranberry harvest.



## Waves of sand

Marcin Zajac of Poland captured these golden dunes in California.



# Photos of the week





# Sports



## DID YOU KNOW?

The first basketball game was played using peach baskets as the goals.

## Division II champions



In the Division II men's basketball final on March 25, Nova Southeastern (above) beat West Liberty, 111–101, for their first national title. The team's 111 points were the most ever scored in an NCAA men's or women's championship game in any division.

Florida Atlantic University vs. Kansas State on March 25

## College hoops Final Four teams set

The regional finals of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I men's and women's basketball tournaments have ended, and the matchups are set for the national semifinals, the Final Four.

On the men's side, for the first time since teams were seeded (ranked) in 1979, the Final Four will not have any first-, second-, or third-seeded teams. The highest seed left is fourth-seeded University of Connecticut (UConn), who beat third-seeded Gonzaga, 82–54, on March 25. UConn has won each of their tournament games by at least 15 points.

UConn will play fifth-seeded University of Miami in the Final Four. On March 26, Miami

came back from a 13-point deficit to beat second-seeded University of Texas, 88–81.

Ninth-seeded Florida Atlantic University (FAU), beat third-seeded Kansas State, 79–76, on

March 25. FAU has 35 wins this season, the most in Division I basketball. They will now face fifth-seeded San Diego State (SDSU), who beat sixth-seeded Creighton, 57–56, on March 26. This is the furthest SDSU, FAU, and Miami have ever gone in the men's tournament. The Final Four

games will be played in Houston, Texas, on April 1, with the championship on April 3.

On the women's side, first-seeded University of South Carolina, the 2022 national champions, made their third straight Final Four after beating

second-seeded University of Maryland, 86–75, on March 27. Also that day, first-seeded Virginia Tech earned their first trip to the Final Four with an 84–74 win over third-seeded Ohio State.

The night before, Angel Reese from third-seeded Louisiana State University (LSU) scored 13 points and had 18 rebounds in her team's 54–42 win over ninth-seeded Miami. Later on, Caitlin Clark of second-seeded Iowa had 41 points, 10 rebounds, and 12 assists in her team's 97–83 win over fifth-seeded Louisville. It was the first 40-point triple-double (double digits in three statistical categories) in men's or women's NCAA tournament history. Iowa will play South Carolina and LSU will face Virginia Tech in the women's Final Four in Dallas, Texas, on March 31. Those games' winners will play for the title on April 2.



Caitlin Clark

## THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

### FIGURE SKATING

At the World Figure Skating Championships in Saitama, Japan, which ended on March 26, Americans Madison Chock and Evan Bates won gold in ice dancing. It was their first world title in 10 appearances. The other champions were all Japanese. Kaori Sakamoto won in women's singles, Shoma Uno won in men's singles, and Miura Riku and Kihara Ryuichi earned Japan's first gold in pairs skating.



Madison Chock and Evan Bates

### COLLEGE SWIMMING AND DIVING

On March 25, the University of California won its second straight men's swimming and diving championship. Arizona State University (ASU) came in second, and the University of Texas placed third. ASU swimmer Leon Marchand ended his season with a 26–0 record.

### COLLEGE FENCING

The University of Notre Dame won its 13th NCAA fencing national championship on March 26.



Alex Morgan  
of the San Diego  
Wave on March 25

## NWSL has exciting opening weekend

Over the weekend of March 25, the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL) kicked off its 2023 season. All 12 of the league's teams played, and there were many exciting matches.

On the first day, the San Diego Wave hosted the Chicago Red Stars at Snapdragon Stadium in San Diego, California. The match drew a crowd of 30,854, a league record for a home opener. San Diego won, 3–2, but it was a close competition until the very end. The teams were tied after the first half and during most of the second half. In the 89th minute, San Diego's Alex Morgan scored what would be a game-winning penalty kick. In another game that day, the North Carolina Courage beat the Kansas City Current, 1–0.

The next day, the NWSL's defending champions, the Portland Thorns, started off their

season strong with a 4–0 win over the Orlando Pride. Meanwhile, the Washington Spirit beat OL Reign, 1–0, thanks to a goal by Washington's star player Trinity Rodman. Another match, between Houston Dash and Racing Louisville, ended with the teams in a 0–0 draw.

In the weekend's final match, Gotham FC, which finished the 2022 season in last place, beat Angel City, 2–1. The first goal, 11 minutes into the game, was scored by Angel City's Alyssa Thompson, an 18-year-old high school senior and the NWSL's number one draft pick this year.

Each NWSL team will play 22 regular season matches. During the summer, there will be a break in the schedule because many NWSL players will be competing in the 2023 Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand.

JUSTIN FINE/CSM/ZUMA PRESS/WIRE/VAAP/DARTMOUTH COLLEGE ATHLETICS/GETTY IMAGES

## COACH OF THE WEEK



Coach's Name: **Jeff Baltruzak**

Team: **The Falcons (flag football)**

**"I love having my dad be my flag football coach! He makes it fun. We play games like Sharks and Minnows and Bull in the Ring. He loves screaming out, 'Yes, sir!' when we make a good play. He is the best because if we get a fourth down stop, he gives us candy. He calls it 'The Candy Play.' When we were sad that we didn't make the championship game, he told us he was still proud of us and that there's always next year!"** Luke, 9, Pennsylvania



To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com). Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

## SPOTLIGHT ON...



### Sofia Abrego

AGE: 18    SPORT: CROSS COUNTRY  
TEAM: DARTMOUTH COLLEGE

**Starting line** I began running when I was 7 years old. I had played soccer, and some people suggested doing track to get a little faster. I didn't like it that much in the beginning, but my twin brother did. What I liked was that I was better than he was, and I didn't want him to get better than me.

**Family matters** My parents are immigrants from Mexico. They've encouraged me and inspired me. They're the reason I've come so far and why I continue to try to do my best.



### Staying positive

One issue that most runners have is that we tie our self-worth to how well we run. That can be really damaging, especially when comparing yourself with other runners. I stay away from that. I try to take inspiration from other runners and figure out what they did that I didn't do so maybe I can do better next time.

**Pre-race rituals** When I was little, my dad would grab my hand before a race and we would take three deep breaths. Even though I'm 18 now, I still do my three breaths before a race. I also think about little me and how proud she'd be of me now.

**Special scenes** My favorite thing about running is having the ability to do it with other people, especially in beautiful places. It's cool to be running and watch the sunset or see deer stride by. It makes me realize there's so much more to competing and racing—it's the ability to feel free.

**Words of wisdom** The key to being successful is having a good support system and being able to communicate with others about how you're feeling.



# Arts and entertainment



**DID YOU KNOW?**  
There are three sets of twins who currently play in the National Basketball Association.

A scene from an episode of *The Crossover*

## The Crossover hits the screen

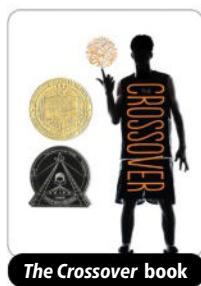
Kwame Alexander's award-winning book about basketball-loving twin brothers is now a series on Disney+.

The award-winning book *The Crossover* by author and poet Kwame Alexander has been adapted into a live-action TV series of the same name. The series, which follows twin brothers and their love of basketball, premieres on Disney+ on April 5.

Published in 2014, *The Crossover* was an instant bestseller and won many awards, including the 2015 Newbery Medal (top award for children's literature). It was highly acclaimed for its depiction of two young Black men coming of age and the way

it was written entirely in a style of poetry called free verse (the lines can rhyme and not rhyme). Alexander created the new Disney+ series and served as a co-showrunner and writer on it.

The story centers on Josh (known as "Filthy") and Jordan (nicknamed "JB") Bell. In the series, a grown-up Filthy narrates the story of how he and his brother became basketball stars. Their dad is a former professional basketball player now coaching them, and their mom is a school principal. The twins must navigate growing up and figuring out who they are on and off the court.



Amir O'Neil, who plays JB and is a twin in real life, told *The Week Junior* that fans of the book can look forward to seeing its characters come to life. But the series also dives deeper into the twins' desire to be close yet want to break away, he said.

Jaylyn Hall, who plays Filthy, told *The Week Junior* that the brothers' relationship gets challenged in the series, as it does in the book. As JB explores new hobbies and friendships, for example, Filthy feels he's being betrayed.

Hall said the series has "something for everybody." O'Neil said he hopes the series reminds people that "you always have somebody in your corner, whether it's family or friends."

### About Kwame Alexander

#### His life and career

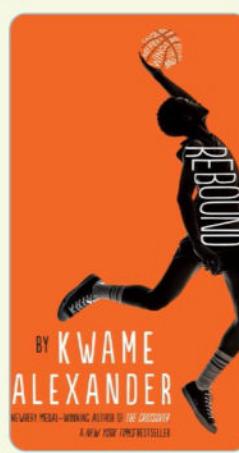
Besides being an author and poet, Alexander is a literacy advocate and contributes to National Public Radio. His sister, Nataki Hewling, is the photo editor of *The Week Junior*!



Kwame Alexander

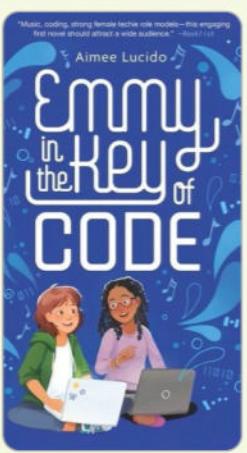
#### Other books he's written

Alexander has written 37 books. Two are follow-ups to *The Crossover*. *Rebound* tells the story of JB and Filthy's father, Charles, as a child. *Booked* is about a boy who loves playing soccer and hates books.



#### Focus on diversity

Alexander started his own book imprint, Versify, in 2018 to publish unconventional works in children's literature. It has released more than 35 books, including *Emmy in the Key of Code* by Aimee Lucido.



# Arts and entertainment



Items from *Scandinavian Design and the United States, 1890–1980*

**FUN FACT**  
The Lego company, founded in Denmark in 1932, gets its name from the Danish *leg godt*, which means "play well."

## THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST



### Doogie Kamealoha, M.D.

(Disney+)

Inspired by a hit 1990s show, this series follows Lahela "Doogie" Kamealoha, a teen genius living in Hawaii and working as a doctor at a hospital. In season two, her personal relationships get complicated, and she'll need her family and friends to help her juggle it all.



### The Nutty Boy

(Netflix)

This animated comedy series follows Nutty Boy, a young child who has big ideas that rarely go as planned. This new batch of episodes offers more of his misadventures, such as taking a race cart down big hills and pulling extreme pranks at school.



### The Sun Queen

(PBS) Premieres April 4, 9 pm ET

Pioneering engineer Mária Telkes spent nearly 50 years exploring how to harness the Sun's power. In this documentary special, viewers will learn how hard it was being one of the only women in her field and how she built the world's first successful solar-heated residence.



## READER RECOMMENDS

### Wednesday

(Netflix TV-14)

"Wednesday Addams has been to eight schools in the past five years. Now the only school that will accept her is Nevermore Academy, the school of outcasts. Her parents met there, and they've been longing for her to go and meet the sirens (beings that live in water and on land) and werewolves who make up the student body. A series of unsolved murders have taken place nearby, and Wednesday investigates the mystery. She discovers an evil plot that threatens her classmates' lives. I love her personality and how she becomes a super-detective and grows throughout the story." Sylvie, 11, California



Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com).



## On screen

### HISTORIC LOCATION

The Negro Leagues Baseball Museum is located in Kansas City, Missouri, where the first league was founded.



Negro League player Andrew "Rube" Foster in *MLB The Show 23*

# New season of *MLB The Show*

**M**LB The Show 23 is a new baseball video game. It is out now for the Nintendo Switch, PlayStation systems, and Xbox consoles.

This will be the 18th game in the *MLB The Show* series, which launched in 2006. It is the official game of Major League Baseball (MLB). This year, the game's cover star is Jazz Chisholm of the Miami Marlins. Hall of Famer Derek Jeter of the New York Yankees covers the collector's edition.

The Show 23 brings back popular features of the previous games, but it also has some new features. This year's biggest addition is a Storylines mode about the Negro Leagues, which were professional leagues for Black players. Because of racism (widespread discrimination or mistreatment of people because of their race or skin color) and segregation (the unjust separation of Black people from white people), there were

decades when Black players were not allowed to play with white players. The first league formed in 1920, and others followed. They existed until 1960.

*MLB The Show 23* features eight Negro League players, including Hall of Famers Satchel Paige, Andrew "Rube" Foster, and Jackie Robinson. Foster helped create the first league and is called "The Father of Black Baseball."

Gamers can watch videos about their stories and also play in some of their most memorable moments. The stars can be added to teams in Exhibition mode. More players will arrive in 2024.

*MLB The Show* is updated each year to reflect the real MLB world. There is a new rule that limits how much defensive players can shift their positions on the field, and that is now part of the video game. MLB also added a pitch clock and larger bases, but those changes were intentionally left out of the game.



### PODCAST OF THE WEEK

#### MYSTERIES OF SCIENCE

Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Podcasts

From *The Week Junior Science + Nature* magazine in the UK comes this series that explores unexplained scientific wonders. In each episode, the magazine staff chats with experts to discuss topics including mountain ranges deep under the ocean or the mysterious abominable snowman.



### CHANNEL OF THE WEEK



#### ENBIGGEN

[youtube.com/@enbiggen](https://youtube.com/@enbiggen)

David Scott makes elaborate marble runs that feature xylophone pieces. As the marbles bounce down the track, they play songs such as *Moana's* "How Far I'll Go" or the theme songs from the *Indiana Jones* films and *Super Mario World*. Check out his video shorts for other musical creations.

### WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

#### STATELE

[Statele.teuteuf.fr](https://statele.teuteuf.fr)

This game is fun for anyone who likes the game Wordle or wants to test or improve their geography knowledge. Each day, you'll see the shape of a US state and have six tries to guess which one it is. After that, you can play bonus rounds with additional questions about the state.



# Book club



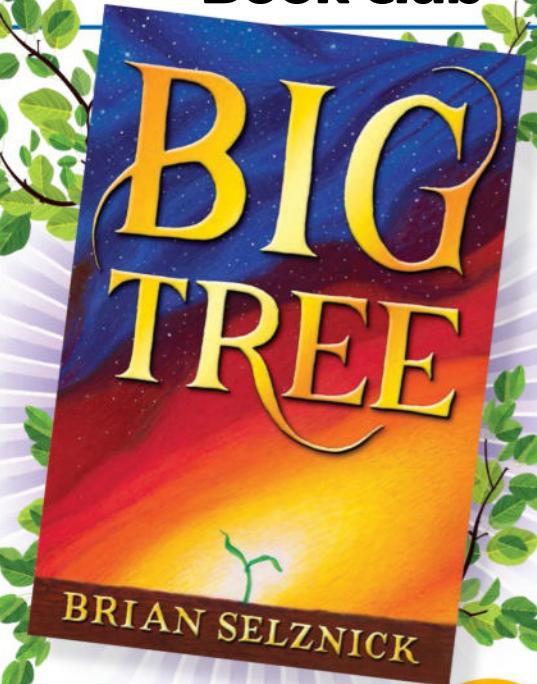
## BOOK OF THE WEEK

### Big Tree

By Brian Selznick

(Scholastic Press)

Merwin and Louise are sycamore seeds who want to stay close to their Mama Tree. But when fire sweeps through the forest, Mama Tree releases them into the air. She hopes the wind will carry them to a place with good soil, water, and sunlight so they can take root. Unfortunately, they land on what they think is a rock and know they can't stay there. Thanks to good fortune and a butterfly friend, they go on adventures to find a spot to grow. Merwin wants to go to the Beautiful Mountain, but Louise gets a warning about it in a dream. What they do will decide their fate. The story spans from the Cretaceous period (145 to 66 million years ago) to modern day. You might find the ending both satisfying and sentimental. Exquisite black-and-white drawings help tell the story.



### WIN A BOOK!

We are giving away five copies of *Big Tree*.

For a chance to win, send your name and address to [contests@theweekjunior.com](mailto:contests@theweekjunior.com) with *Big Tree* in the subject line. Enter by midnight on April 21. See [theweekjunior.com/terms](http://theweekjunior.com/terms) for complete rules.

BOOKS COURTESY THE PUBLISHERS; AUTHOR SUMANI LAJMI; GETTY IMAGES

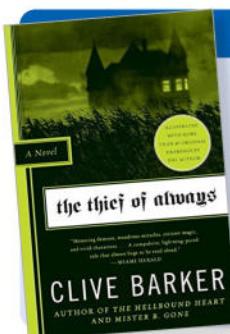


### READER RECOMMENDS

#### The Thief of Always By Clive Barker

"Harvey Swick is a bored child. Then a man appears and takes him to a house where it's Christmas every night and there's always great food. Harvey is enjoying his time until he discovers a darker side to the house. He and a friend escape the house but make another horrible discovery. Will Harvey be able to take down the magic of the holiday house? I love the story and the characters." Liam, 11, Virginia

Do you have a book to recommend? Send your review to [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com).



### 4 great books with fewer than 200 pages

Short chapters and excellent pacing make these fascinating stories fly by.



#### From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler

By E.L. Konigsburg

(Atheneum Books for Young Readers)

Siblings run away to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City and try to solve a mystery about a famous sculpture. This 176-page book won the Newbery Medal, a top book award, in 1968. Ages 8-12



#### Haven: A Small Cat's Big Adventure

By Megan Wagner Lloyd

(Candlewick)

Ma Millie rescues a kitten named Haven. When she becomes ill, Haven tries to find a neighbor to help. The neighbor has gone to town, and the only way there is through an unfamiliar forest. The brave kitten finds an unlikely ally in a fox. This 144-page story has a bittersweet ending. Ages 8-12



#### The Summer We Found the Baby

By Amy Hest

(Candlewick)

Set in World War II, the novel is told from three points of view. It starts with 6-year-old Martha, who finds a baby in a basket. Her sister and a boy whose brother has gone to war help uncover why the baby was left. Despite a serious subject, the 192 pages have humor and suspense. Ages 10-14



#### Finding Langston

By Lesa Cline-Ransome

(Holiday House)

In 1946, Langston's mother dies and his family moves to the Midwest. He's surprised the Chicago library is open to everyone, unlike the one in Alabama for white people only. Langston learns about a connection to a famous poet with the same first name. At 112 pages, this historical novel is the first book in a trilogy. Ages 8-12



# How to...



# Keep an art journal

**Explore your thoughts and ideas visually with this activity.**

An art journal is like a written journal, except it's more than words alone. It's a visual diary where you can express yourself through sketching, painting, or any art form you enjoy. This could mean creating a drawing of a picture that reflects your feelings, painting a special memory, or pasting together a collage of images and words that represents a goal you have. Research suggests that keeping an art journal helps reduce stress, solve problems, and connect with your creative side. Here's some advice for getting started.

## Choose a journal

A sketchpad is a good option for your art journal. These pads typically feature thicker paper than traditional notebooks, so you can use markers and paints without worrying about them bleeding through the paper. It's helpful if the pad you use has a spiral binding, since sometimes you might need to leave your journal open to let artwork dry. If you already have a sketchbook, consider ripping out any used pages so you can start fresh with your art journal.

## Gather art supplies

Round up supplies you already own. A small watercolor paint set, colored pencils, markers, and crayons can give you many creative options. You can add more to your stash over time. Next, gather catalogs, newspapers, or

other printed material to cut words from. Keep sponges and paintbrushes, glue sticks, and a small pencil sharpener handy. Since art journals can feature many types of art, you can mix up the tools you use.

## Create an entry

The only rule of keeping an art journal is there are no rules. If you have an idea of what you want to do for an entry, get started. If you're not sure where to begin, one easy place to start is with a background. Use brushes or sponges to paint colors all over a page, or create a frame with markers or by gluing a collage of colored paper to your page. Once your background is done and dry, you can add layers with drawings, shapes, patterns, or words. If you're not sure what to depict, think about something that happened during your day and try to represent that. You can also take your journal outside and make art that is inspired by something you see, such as a pretty view.

## Make it a habit

Many of the benefits of keeping an art journal are gained by doing it regularly. You can make it a part of your daily routine by doing it before bed or right after school. You could also choose to carry a second, smaller journal to school and fit in your creativity when you have a break in your day—or anytime you feel inspired.

## 4 other types of creative journals

If you enjoy keeping an art journal, you might also like to try one of these other types of journals.

### Dream journal

Place a journal and pen by your bed to jot down your dreams after you wake up. They can be fun to reread or provide inspiration for a short story or art project.



### Reading journal

Each time you start a new book, write the title in your journal, then add your thoughts about the book as you read. You can also rate it after you finish it so you can remember authors and genres you liked.

### Travel journal

Bring a journal with you when you go on a trip, and fill it with notes about what you saw, where you went, and what you did. You can even tape or glue in mementos, like tickets, photos, or postcards.



### Nature journal

The next time you spend time outdoors, write down what you saw. What plants were blooming? What animals did you spot? Notice how your entries change with the seasons.





## ORGANIZE YOUR CLOTHES BETTER

Keeping your drawers tidy will make it faster and easier to find the clothes you're looking for when getting dressed. Here's what to do.

### 1. Start with a purge.

If your drawers are stuffed with clothes, it can be difficult to keep them organized. Go through your items and donate anything that no longer fits. Store clothes that are out of season in a container under your bed.

### 2. Group by categories.

Storing similar items with one another is an easy way to keep organized. To do this, split your clothes into the same number of categories as drawers you have. For example, if you have three, you could have socks and underwear in one drawer, shirts in another, and pants and shorts in the last.

### 3. Roll everything.

Instead of folding and stacking your clothes, consider rolling them. Once your clothes are folded, roll them into a cylinder shape. Place them in your drawer from the back to the front, instead of piling them. This lets you see all of them.



**FUN FACT**  
There are about 350 different types of pasta in the world and about four times as many names for them.



## WARNING!

Ask an adult's permission before using a blender, knife, or stovetop.

## Make a cheesy onion pasta

### Ingredients

- 4 tablespoons butter
- Olive oil
- 3 onions, sliced
- 8 ounces mushrooms, sliced
- 1 teaspoon thyme
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 cups beef broth
- 1 pound small pasta
- 1/2 cup shredded Gruyère cheese
- 2 tablespoons sherry vinegar
- 4 baguette slices
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese

### Instructions

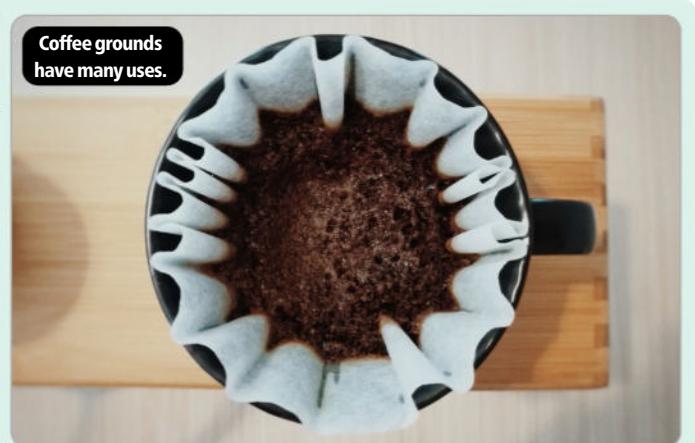
- Melt butter and warm 2 tablespoons of olive oil in a large pot over medium heat. Add onion and cook, stirring often, until golden brown.
- Add the mushrooms and thyme to the pot, stirring about 5 minutes. Stir in the garlic. Add the broth and 1/2 teaspoon each salt and pepper. Increase the heat to bring liquid to a boil.
- Stir in the pasta, then cover and cook. Stir frequently until pasta is al dente (firm). Most of the liquid will be absorbed into the pasta.
- Stir in the shredded Gruyère cheese and the sherry vinegar and remove from heat. Cover and let sit.
- Use a blender to make bread crumbs. Put in baguette slices, cover, and use "pulse" setting until crumbled. Heat 2 tablespoons oil in a skillet over medium-high and add crumbs. Cook, stirring often, until crumbs are golden and crisp. Remove from heat. Stir in Parmesan cheese and season with salt and pepper.
- Give the pasta a good stir, then divide among bowls. Top each serving with bread crumbs. Makes 4 servings.



## ECO TIP OF THE WEEK

## REUSE COFFEE GROUNDS

If any of the adults in your home make coffee, you may have noticed that after brewing a pot there are leftover coffee grounds in the filter. Many people throw them away, but it's better for the environment to reuse coffee grounds instead of sending them to a landfill. One excellent option is to help fertilize your potted plants or garden with them. Coffee grounds are high in nutrients like nitrogen, potassium, and magnesium, which help plants thrive. To use as a fertilizer, mix about one part grounds with six parts soil, then add the mixture to your potted plants or use it to top off the soil around plants in your garden.





# Puzzles



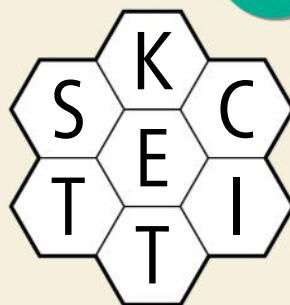
## Word ladder

To change the word FISH into the word TANK, use each clue to fill in a word that is only one letter different from the word before it. If you get stuck, try solving from the bottom up.



## STEPPING STONES

Each figure hides the name of a seven-letter thing at the movies. To find each one, start anywhere and move in an unbroken path through letters that share a border (no jumping!), using each letter once.



ANSWERS  
CAN BE  
FOUND ON  
PAGE 29.

F I S H

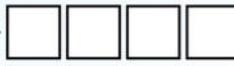
Part of a place setting  
for a nice dinner



100-yard race



Strand of eyelid hair



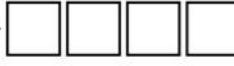
At the very back of the line



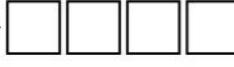
Place to mount the  
crow's nest on a ship



Item worn by a trick-or-  
treater or a surgeon



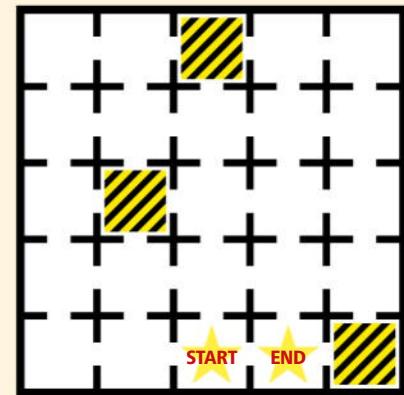
Small job that you're  
assigned to complete



T A N K

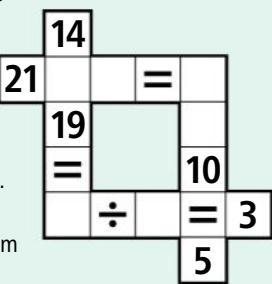
## DO NOT ENTER

Draw one continuous path from START to END that goes through every box except the ones containing obstacles. Your path may not cross itself, and there is only one solution.



## Crossmath

Fill each empty box with a number or a mathematical symbol (+, -, ×, or ÷) to complete the equations across and down. A symbol can be used more than once. (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)



## Spot the difference

These two pictures of a Scandinavian living room appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?





Benjamin Meehan is coasting through life.

## Turning a passion into a job

Benjamin Meehan is a full-time professional rollercoaster rider. He spends every weekend at theme parks around the US and earns money by filming his rides and posting them on YouTube. Meehan has visited every big park in the country, but his favorite is Universal, which is two hours from his home in Jacksonville, Florida. Back at his house, Meehan works on his YouTube content—which is mostly videos of high-speed rides to the sound of people screaming.



Look what Taylor Swift made them do.

## City is renamed for pop star

Music icon Taylor Swift kicked off her *Eras* tour with two concerts in Glendale, Arizona, on March 17 and 18. In celebration, the mayor of Glendale announced that for those two days, the city would change its name to Swift City. The new name was posted on signs and billboards around town, and Mayor Jerry Weiers released a proclamation filled with lyrics from Swift's songs, inviting an estimated 70,000 fans to "shake it off" and "light up this whole town" with smiles.



A first-class place to stay

## The airplane vacation house

On top of a cliff on the island of Bali, Indonesia, is an airplane that will never be flown again. Instead, it has been turned into a two-bedroom vacation home complete with a swimming pool. Converting the Boeing 737 plane into a luxury villa wasn't easy. The plane had to be taken apart so it could be carried along roads to the clifftop location, which involved two cranes and a police escort. The cost for enjoying this extravagant no-fly zone? More than \$7,000 per night.

Real or fake?



Hungry for a new scent?

## Creating a true smell of home

People spend millions of dollars every year on candles with aromas of fruits, flowers, and spices. To attract more sales, candlemakers are always trying new scents, including recent creations that aim to capture the joys of the kitchen. There's a garlic-scented candle available for \$48, for example. Or how about a "Pasta Water" candle for \$70? Next to hit shelves will be a "Leftover Cheese Board Omelette" candle. Is this story real? Or do you think we cooked it up?\*

challenging that many candlemakers are trying to perfect  
processes are incredibly hard to capture in candle form, and this makes it a  
\*Really! One perfume specialist told The Telegraph newspaper that cooking



# Your turn

## Editor's note

I can't say I was shocked to read that Finland has been named the world's happiest country for 2023 (p3). After all, the Nordic nation held the top spot in the World Happiness Report for the previous five years as well. I was, however, pleasantly surprised to see some of the report's other findings, such as that people's satisfaction with their lives has remained steady through the pandemic and that, in fact, the percentage of people who are interested in doing good things for others was 25% higher than it was pre-Covid. Richard Layard, one of the co-authors of the report, said the goal is to have happier societies—and that this depends on our ability to bring joy to one another, not just ourselves. That's a positive takeaway for those of us in the US. Although we're ranked 15th as a nation, we all have the power to make life happier for those around us.

**Andrea Barbalich**  
Editor-in-Chief



Rebelle, 10, Florida

## Becoming a “Pawsitive” reader

“Reading to the animals at the Jax Humane Society is my favorite thing to do! To read to the pets there, you have to take a class to become a Pawsitive reader. I took the class with my Girl Scout troop, and since then I have been logging as many hours as possible. Sometimes the dogs may be barking, but when you start reading to them,

they calm down, sit, and seem like they really like being read to. I like reading to the cats the most. They sometimes cuddle up to me or even fall asleep. Reading to the animals makes me feel good too. I’m so grateful they have the Pawsitive reading program for the animals and for me!”

**Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you’re up to, we want to hear about it at [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com).**

**RIDDLE OF THE WEEK**  
*What is always exactly your height but never your weight? Your reflection*



## CHARITY OF THE WEEK



## Autistic Self Advocacy Network

This organization empowers autistic people to take control of their lives. It is operated by autistic people and works to ensure that people with autism have equal rights and opportunities in their communities. The group trains companies on how to make their workplaces inclusive to autistic people. Find out more at [autisticadvocacy.org](http://autisticadvocacy.org).



## Tell us about your school!

Estelle, who is 8 years old and in second grade, told us that she believes her school stands out because it is bilingual. Learning two languages can be hard, she said, but her teachers make learning Spanish easy. She also enjoys her school's fun run because kids get excited about raising money and earning prizes. If you want to share what's great about your school, go to [kids.theweekjunior.com/activities](http://kids.theweekjunior.com/activities) to print out a form. Fill it out, then have an adult email it to us at [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com). We'll feature some of the submissions we receive on this page in future issues.

## What's great about your school?

Name: Estelle  
Age: 8  
Grade: 2nd  
What's a fun event or activity at your school? What makes it special? One special event that happens at my school is our fun run. The fun run raises money for our PTA but also gets kids excited about raising money because we get prizes. We also get to run laps on our track.

What do you think makes your school stand out? I think my school stands out because it bilingual. When you're learning two languages, it can be hard. But not at our school! Our teachers make learning Spanish easy, fun, & not hard AT ALL.

Draw a picture of one of your favorite school memories from this year.



Email your news, views, and photos to [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com).

**THE WEEK**  
Junior

**IT'S YOUR TURN**

# Your turn



# YOUR PHOTOS

**We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures of you in them! Have an adult email them to us at [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com), along with anything you would like to us to know about what you're doing in the photo.**



**"We had a ton of fun making the silhouette portraits from your March 3 issue!"** **Tristan, 11, and Fiona, 8, Virginia**



**"I love *The Week Junior* so much. Whenever it's a lazy Sunday or I have nothing to do, my go-to thing is reading *The Week Junior!* Thank you!" Isra, 11, New York**



**“It’s the first day I got my issue, and I already voted in the Big Debate!” Tilden, 9, North Carolina**

**Teacher  
OF THE WEEK**

Teacher's Name: **Mr. Piechowiak**  
School: **Northbrook Junior High**

**"Mr. Piechowiak teaches social studies in an amazing way. He makes learning fun by including simulations and fun projects in his daily teaching. Sometimes he even lets his students take a shot on a basketball hoop in his classroom.**

**He encourages students to be good people, and his students know he cares about them. Mr. Piechowiak is my favorite teacher."** Alex, 11, Illinois

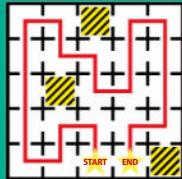
**Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week!**  
Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to [hello@theweekjunior.com](mailto:hello@theweekjunior.com).

## Puzzle answers (from page 26)



## Word ladder

**Word ladder** f i s h  
d i s h  
d a s h  
l a s h  
l a s t  
m a s t  
m a s k  
t a s k  
t a n k



## Stepping stones popcorn, tickets

$$\begin{array}{r}
 14 \\
 21 + 29 = 50 \\
 19 \\
 \hline
 = \\
 33 \div 11 = 3
 \end{array}$$



## **Quiz answers (from page 30)**

**1** Free verse **2** a) Personality **3** False. It was the San Diego Wave. **4** b) Utah **5** Cubism  
**6** b) Jazz Chisholm **7** True **8** Universal **9** False. They revealed details about a corridor.  
**10** c) Flaco **11** True **12** a) Germany. **13** Troll doll **14** c) Sycamore **15** Mr. Pickles

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.



# Quiz of the week

## How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 Kwame Alexander's book *The Crossover* is written in what style of poetry?

2 Flamingos form bonds with one another when they have what in common?

a) Personality b) Size c) Age

a  b  c

3 True or false? The Chicago Red Stars soccer team set an NWSL record for attendance in a home opener.

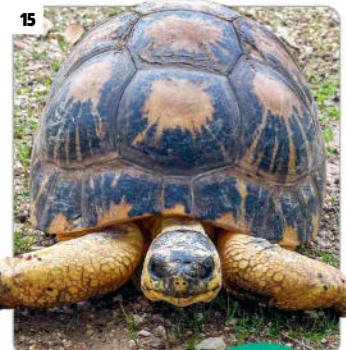
True  False

4 What state passed the first laws in the US to restrict young people's access to social media apps like TikTok?

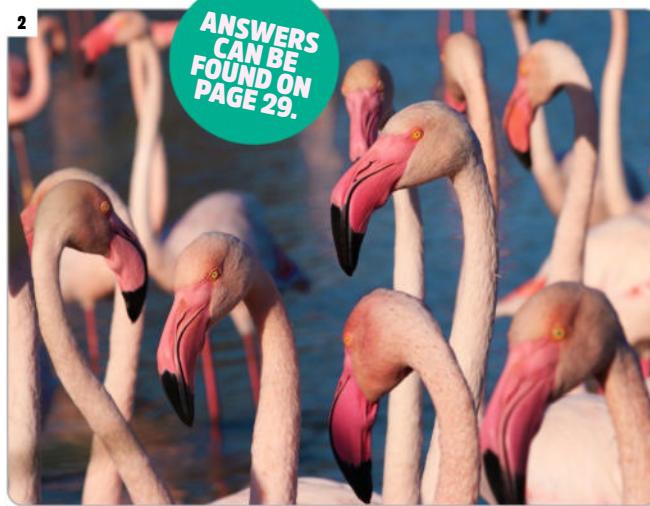
a) Colorado b) Utah c) Montana

a  b  c

5 Pablo Picasso's painting *The Accordionist* is an example of what type of art?



ANSWERS  
CAN BE  
FOUND ON  
PAGE 29.



6 Which player is on the cover of the video game MLB The Show 23?

a) Jackie Robinson b) Jazz Chisholm

c) Satchel Paige

a  b  c

7 True or false? Finland was recently named the happiest country in the world.

True  False

8 What is professional roller coaster rider Benjamin Meehan's favorite theme park?



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## ANCIENT TIMEPIECE

The astronomical clock in Prague, installed in 1410, displays the time and the positions of the Sun, Earth, and Moon in the sky.